

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-24 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to recite “a substrate having a thickness of from 0.5 to 1.2 mm”. Support can be found, for example, at page 56, lines 1-3 (the allowable subject matter of Claim 20, now canceled). No new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statement

Preliminarily, Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 8, 2006 in the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the disclosed information and return an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form with the next communication from the PTO.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As previously indicated, Applicants incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 20 into the independent product Claims 1 and 9. Claim 20 is now canceled.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 9, and claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance and such is earnestly requested.

Response to Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as assertedly being anticipated by Koike et al. (US 6,777,039 B2), for the reasons given in the Office Action.

As previously indicated, Applicants amend Claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 20, now canceled.

Applicants submit that amended Claims 1 and 9 and claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references. Claims 1 and 9 recite “a substrate having a thickness of from 0.5 to 1.2mm”.

Applicants again note that, unlike ink-jet recording sheets, the optical information recording medium of the present invention has strong bending resistance. When any ink-jet recording sheet is bent by a strong force, defects such as cracks occur in the surface thereof. However, the substrate of the present optical information recording medium is thicker than any ordinary ink-jet recording sheet. Thus, the present invention has strong resistance against stress from the outside, such as bending force (see page 52, lines 17-22). Furthermore, present Claim 1 also requires that “the diffusion reflectance of the undercoat layer is 10% or more” and “a surface glossiness of 30% or more at 60°”, which elements are not disclosed or even rendered obvious from Koike et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/798,282

Atty. Docket No. Q79893

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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